

***IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE***

Applicant: PASUPULETI *et al.*  
Title: OLIGONUCLEOTIDES AND METHODS FOR DETECTING  
HEPATITIS B VIRAL NUCLEIC ACIDS  
Appl. No.: 10/690,282  
Filing Date: 10/20/2003  
Examiner: Hill, Myron G.  
Art Unit: 1648  
Confirmation Number: 4566

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.312**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants acknowledge receipt of a Notice of Allowance in the above-captioned application. Prior to payment of the issue fee, please amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this document.